

AL-III-B-011

LOCK HOUSE #75
C & O Canal near Cumberland
1845

Lock House #75 is a sturdy log rectangular structure with a low stone foundation. Featured is an original corbeled brick chimney located on the flush end of the house. The two story dwelling was used to house the locktender and his family, whose only job was to maintain and operate the lock while a canal boat passed through. Seventy four other lock houses exist along the C & O Canal, and this particular one has been chosen for restoration in the future by the National Park Service.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0101810404
AL-III-B-011

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lift Lock 75 House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

C & O Canal

CITY, TOWN

Oldtown

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegheny

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☒ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☒ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☒ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

National Park Service

Telephone #: 202-343-1100

STREET & NUMBER

C Street, Between 18th & 19th Streets, N. W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D. C.

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegheny County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland, Maryland

STATE

MD.

Liber #: 460

Folio #: 27

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-III-B-011

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lift Lock House 75 is of log construction built upon a low stone foundation of rectangular shape. It's two stories tall and two bays wide. The dwelling is located about three miles south of Cumberland on the C & O Canal; Lift-lock 75 is the last lock before Cumberland. The windows and doors of the structure have been completely boarded up; a determination of their architectural styling is not possible. No wings or additions have been added to the house, and the original log construction still composes the walls. The roof is a simple gabled one with replaced asphalt shingling. Also featured is an original corbeled brick chimney located on the flush end of the house.

The house is structurally very sound, and is very well appreciated, for it has been chosen for restoration in the future by the National Park Service.¹

1. Interview with Richard Huber, National Park Service, 9/3/76, Seneca, Maryland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

AL-III-B-011

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lift Lock Houses along the C & O Canal were built to house the locktender and his family. The locktender was on call 24 hours a day and his job was to maintain and operate his respective lock. 74 locks were built along the 184 mile canal to ascend the 609 foot rise from Georgetown to Cumberland. The canal opened for navigation to Cumberland on October 10, 1850, so the lock houses in Allegany County were probably built in the late 1840's.¹

The locktender's salary was only \$25.00 a month, but he was granted the lock house to live in and an acre of land for a garden. Many of them also had hogs, chickens, or a cow or two that would also graze on the land.

If a boat approached at night, it was necessary to arouse the locktender. When near the lock, the mule driver would loudly chant, "Lock ready -- Lock ready -- Hey -- ey -- ey, Lock!", and the steersman in the back of the back of the boat would sound off a bugle. The locktender would then signal with a lantern as to whether or not the lock was ready to enter. It took ten to fifteen minutes for a canal boat to clear the lock with the help of the boat crew as well as the locktender. This same system was used for all of the 74 years the canal was in operation.²

The canal ceased operation in 1924, and many of the locktenders remained in the houses until they found other jobs. Construction materials of lift-lock houses in Allegany County include frame and log with stone foundations. Their use is now limited in this county to public viewing in the C & O Park areas, although specific entrance into them is restricted.

1. History of Western Maryland. Scharf: Everts Pub. Co., Philadelphia, 1882, p. 712
2. Wolfe George, I Drove Mules on the C & O Canal, Dover Graphic Co., Dover, 1969, p. 51

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AL-III-B-011

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .6 Acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Joan Baldwin, & Steve Beale

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

9/1/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO. A 1-111-B-011460 / 27
.6 AcresDATE: 8/26/76

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY:

LIFT - LOCK ⁷⁵ ~~75~~ HOUSE

LOCATION OF PROPERTY:

C20 CANAL

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES:

~~NORTH~~ EAST

NAME OF OWNER:

National Park Service 202-343-1100

ADDRESS:

C St. Between 18th + 19th N.W.WASHINGTON, D.C.STORIES: 1() 2(☒) 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2(☒) 3() 4() 5() 6() 7() ()WINGS, ADDITIONS: NONEDwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- () FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
() BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
() STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
(☒) LOG
() Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS PLAINFOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONEWATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICKWINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1() 2/2() 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other()
BOARDED pegged() nailed() wide() narrow() mitred() pediment()

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION:

HARDWARE: original() replaced(☒)
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)

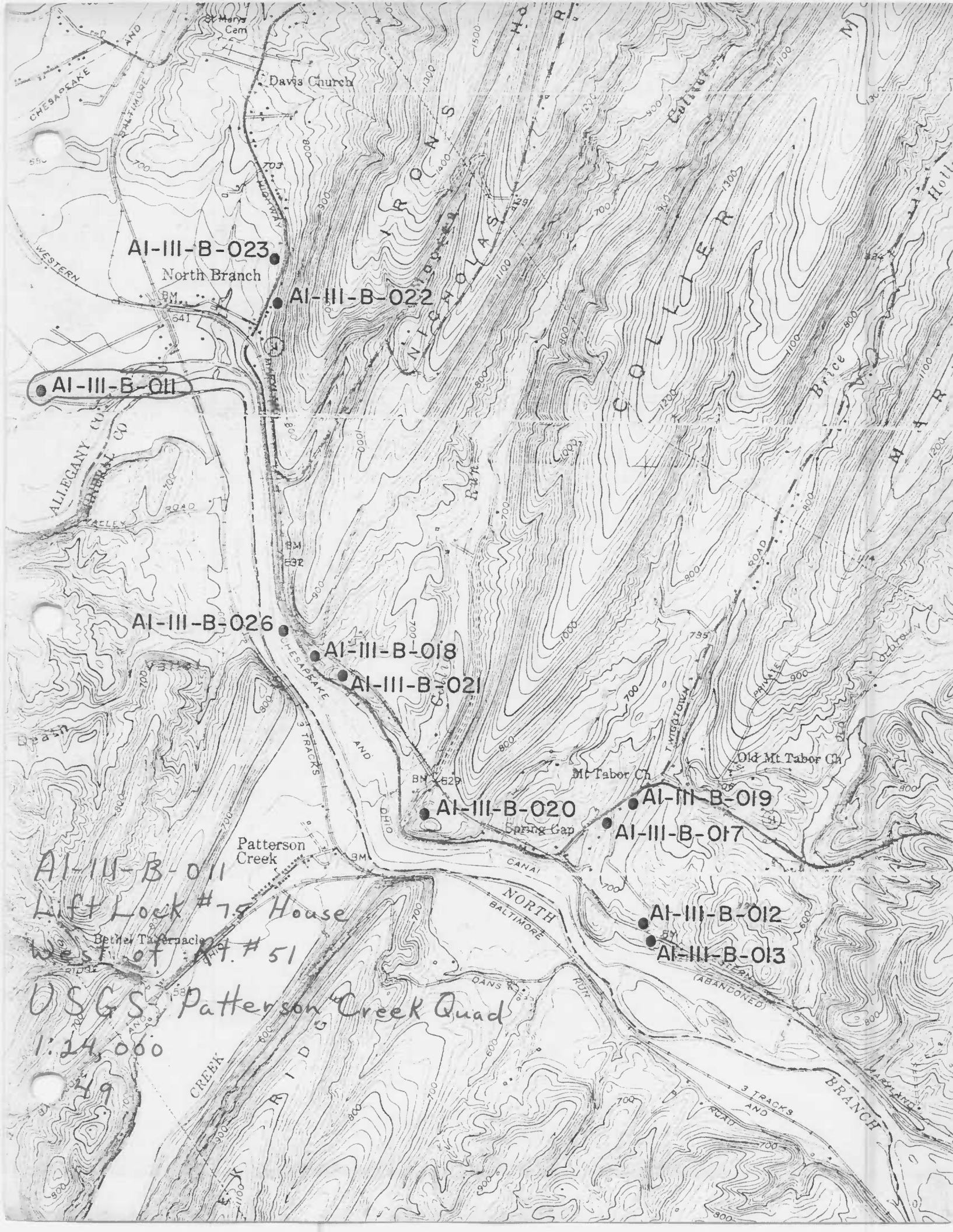
original() replaced() Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze, Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, FORMERS #MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original() replaced(☒)PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip() gable() NONECHIMNEYS: NUMBER 1 BRICK(☒) STONE() CORBELLED(☒) original(☒) replaced()LOCATION: Flush end(☒) Inside end() Outside end() Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - Historical Viewing
Significance -
Date Constructed - ca. 1840
Condition - Fair





LOCK HOUSE # 75

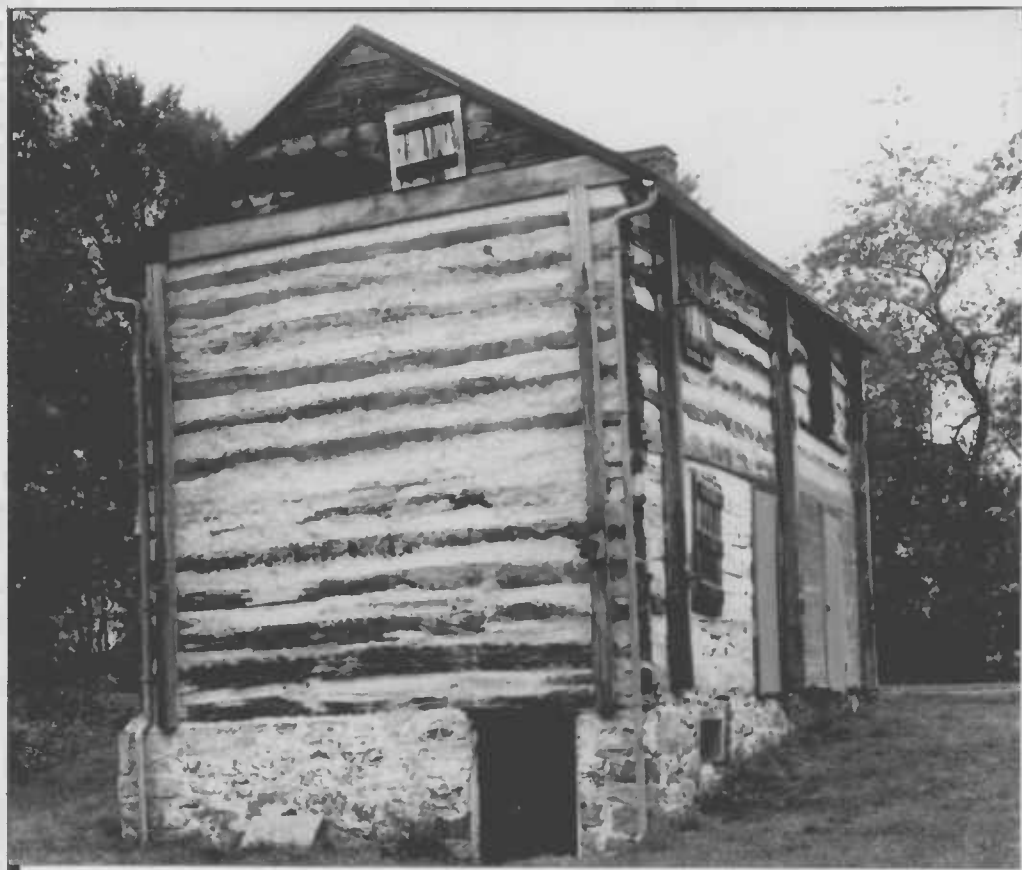
C & O CANAL

AL - III - B - 011

JOHN E. NELSON

8/26/76

~~711~~ EAST
SOUTH



LOCK HOUSE # 75

C + O CANAL

AL - III - B - 011

JOHN E. NELSON

8/26/76

North WEST